



ALNWICK RURAL DISTRICT

ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH

AND PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR

1967



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A N N U A L R E P O R T

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ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH1967To the Chairman and Members of the Alnwick Rural District Council

The report for the year 1967 includes the period covered by my predecessor who left to take up a position in general practice and subsequently by myself when I took up my appointment on 1st July. The initial period has been one of getting to know first people and places and secondly detail. This latter is inevitably a slow and continuing process particularly in an extensive area with a scattered population.

The report is presented in its accustomed form and contains information on the vital statistics for the District and also on the sanitary circumstances which are included in the report of the Public Health Inspector.

VITAL STATISTICS

These show no marked variation from the normal pattern. The number of births, 196, was an increase on the number in the previous year, 172. The crude birth rate was 15.9 live births per thousand population and the adjusted rate 18.1 per thousand, the area comparability factor for births being 1.14. These rates compare with ones of 14.0 and 15.9 respectively in the District in 1966 and of 17.2 in England and Wales in 1967.

Total deaths numbered 143 compared with 153 in 1966. The crude death rate was 11.6 per thousand and the adjusted rate 10.0 per thousand, the area comparability factor for deaths being 0.86. These rates compare with ones of 12.4 and 10.3 respectively in the District in 1966 and of 11.2 in England and Wales in 1967.

There were two infant deaths compared with three in 1966. The infant mortality rate was 10.2 deaths per thousand live births compared with 17.4 per thousand in the District in 1966 and 18.3 in England and Wales in 1967. There were no maternal deaths.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

There were two notifications of pulmonary tuberculosis both in elderly males, and two deaths of persons on the tuberculosis register but in neither of the latter was tuberculosis the cause of death. One of the notifications was made posthumously and in this person also the cause of death was not due to tuberculosis.

The 1966 measles epidemic continued into the early part of 1967 and there were 167 cases notified during the year. The early months also produced a minor outbreak of dysentery with 15 notified cases.

Intermittantly cases of salmonella infections occurring in livestock are informally notified by the Animal Health Division of the Ministry of Agriculture as a result of specimens submitted by veterinary practitioners. Information was received of five such cases during 1967- four in cattle and one in turkeys. The organisims were Salmonella typhimurium, S. dublin, and three unidentified salmonella. These infections in live stock are fairly common and are increasing, particularly in association with intensive rearing methods. They constitute a risk of food poisoning to the workers on the premises and possibly to the public through the consumption of farm bottled milk or through the contamination of meat at slaughter. One case of food poisoning occurred during the year and the patient was a cowman. There were at the time suspected infections in the cattle but this was not proved bacteriologically.

IMMUNISATION

The statistics for the area are shown in a modified table - by disease instead of by form of injection. The number of immunisations carried out in young children have been related to the number of births during 1967. The percentages shown are a reasonable index of the acceptance rates and can be considered to be very satisfactory.

Ian G.P. Fraser

Medical Officer of Health

GENERAL STATISTICS

The area of the district was 92,964 acres.

The number of inhabited houses was 4,298 and the number of new houses completed during the year was 32

The Rateable value was £343,938 and the sum represented by a penny rate was £1,365

The estimated mid-year population was 12,320 and this figure was taken when calculating the Birth and Death Rate.

VITAL STATISTICS

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
<u>Live Births</u>			
Legitimate	85	96	181
Illegitimate	9	6	15
<u>Totals</u>	<u>94</u>	<u>102</u>	<u>196</u>
Crude Birth Rate per 1,000 of the population			15.9
Crude Birth Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			18.1
Illegitimate live births per cent of total live births			7.7
<u>Stillbirths</u>			
Legitimate	3	1	4
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>3</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>4</u>
Stillbirth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			20.0
Total live and still births			20.0
<u>Infant Deaths (Deaths under one year)</u>			
Legitimate	1	1	2
Illegitimate	-	-	-
<u>Totals</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>2</u>
<u>Infant Mortality Rates</u>			
Total infant deaths per 1,000 total live births			10.2
Legitimate infant deaths per 1,000 legitimate live births			11.0
Illegitimate infant deaths per 1,000 illegitimate live births			-
<u>Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under four weeks per 1,000 total live births			5.1
<u>Early Neo-natal Mortality Rate</u>			
Deaths under one week per 1,000 total live births			5.1
<u>Perinatal Mortality Rate</u>			
Stillbirths under one week combined per 1,000 total live and still births			25.0
<u>Maternal Mortality (including abortion)</u>			
Number of Deaths			-
Rate per 1,000 total live and still births			-

<u>Deaths</u>	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
	72	71	143
Crude Death Rate per 1,000 of the population			11.6
Crude Death Rate multiplied by Comparability Factor			10.0

CHIEF CAUSES OF DEATH

	<u>Males</u>	<u>Females</u>	<u>Total</u>
Tuberculosis (Respiratory)	-	-	-
Tuberculosis (Other)	-	-	-
Syphilitic Disease	-	-	-
Diphtheria	-	-	-
Whooping Cough	-	-	-
Meningococcal Infection	-	-	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-	-	-
Measles	-	-	-
Other infective and parasitic diseases	-	-	-
Malignant Neoplasm, Stomach	2	2	4
" " Lung, Bronchus	4	1	5
" " Breast	-	2	2
" " Uterus	-	3	3
Other malignant and lymphatic neoplasms	6	8	14
Leukaemia, aleukaemia	-	-	-
Diabetes	-	1	1
Vascular Lesions of the Nervous System	16	13	29
Coronary Disease, Angina	15	18	33
Hypertension with heart disease	1	2	3
Other Heart Disease	11	6	17
Other Circulatory Disease	3	5	8
Influenza	-	-	-
Pneumonia	2	1	3
Bronchitis	4	-	4
Other diseases of respiratory system	2	-	2
Ulcer of stomach and duodenum	1	-	1
Gastritis, enteritis and diarrhoea	-	-	-
Nephritis and Nephrosis	-	-	-
Hyperplasia of prostate	-	-	-
Pregnancy, Childbirth, Abortion	-	-	-
Congenital malformations	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	7	9
Motor Vehicle Accidents	1	-	1
All other accidents	1	1	2
Suicide	-	1	1
Homicide and operations of war	-	-	-
Totals	72	71	143

NOTIFICATIONS OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Scarlet Fever	7
Whooping Cough	2
Diphtheria	-
Measles	167
Pneumonia	-
Cerebro-spinal Meningitis	-
Enteric Fever	-
Erysipelas	-
Acute Poliomyelitis	-
Dysentery	15
Ophthalmia	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-
Smallpox	-
Paratyphoid Fever	-
Food Poisoning	1
Encephalitis	-

TUBERCULOSIS

Age Groups	New Cases				Deaths			
	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary		Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	M	F	M	F	M	F	M	F
0-15	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
15-25	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
25-45	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
45-65	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
65+	1	-	-	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-

IMMUNISATIONNORTH NO. 2 AREA

Disease	Primary Immunisation			Reinforcing Doses		
	Under 4	4-15	Total	Under 4	4-15	Total
Diphtheria	479	23	502	362	463	825
Whooping Cough	479	17	496	262	183	445
Tetanus	479	39	518	367	481	848
Polio	424	35	459	306	384	690

	Primary Vaccination			Revaccination		
	Under 5	5-15	Total	Under 5	5-15	Total
Smallpox	303	15	318	12	26	38

There were 466 live births in the area during 1967 and the number of primary immunisations of children under 4 years of age (smallpox - under 5 years) have been expressed as percentages of this figure.

Diphtheria	-	103%
Whooping Cough	-	103%
Tetanus	-	103%
Polio	-	91%
Smallpox	-	65%

B.C.G. Vaccination against Tuberculosis

Alnwick U.D.	153
Alnwick R.D.	-
Amble U.D.	75
Rothbury R.D.	34
Total	<u>262</u>

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To the Chairman and Members of the
Alnwick Rural District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I submit herewith, for your consideration, my thirteenth Annual Report including the appended statistical section.

The Comprehensive Water Scheme of the Coquet Water Board is now complete throughout the area, and an increasing number of small private water supplies are being connected to the water mains. Regular sampling in most parts of the District are undertaken by the Board and the results are forwarded to my office for information. Progress is still being made in the introduction of sewage schemes to villages. Rennington scheme was completed during the year and the Embleton/Christon Bank scheme will also be completed in the very near future. The combined scheme for Alnmouth and Lesbury has commenced and considerable progress has been made on the laying of sewerage pipes throughout the villages. Newton-on-the-Moor scheme has failed to obtain Ministry consent. The Radcliffe/Hauxley scheme is in abeyance pending the outcome of talks with the National Coal Board for the working of this area as an opencast mining site and the possible transference of the whole of Radcliffe to Amble.

The Grants Schemes for housing continues to attract applicants but it is noticeable that in comparison with the period 1962/64, when the total grant aided schemes amounted to 194 houses, there has been only 138 houses for the period 1965/67. There are still approximately 450 houses without full sanitation service and of these 300 are in villages and 150 on farms. It is disappointing that owners of these properties are not making greater use of these Schemes. It may be of interest to you to know that since the inception of the Discretionary Grant the sum of £135,000 has been paid, which averages out at £290 per house. The Standard Grant total sum amounts to £31,000 and averages out at £115 per house.

The new Dual Tip refuse vehicles purchased for the Cleansing Service last year are proving their worth, in so far as they are coping with the additional refuse. A word of warning must be expressed here that, because of this increase in refuse, larger vehicles will be needed in the coming years. There is a correspondingly much larger area of tipped refuse requiring to be covered in Embleton Quarry and, whilst the small tractor is giving invaluable service, a more powerful crawler shovel type machine is needed so that it can not only level the tip, but excavate the spoil heaps in the Quarry.

In conclusion I would like to express my thanks for the assistance I have obtained throughout the year from Council Members, the Medical Officer of Health and the office staff. In particular I am grateful for the co-operation of Mr. R. Lyall, my assistant, and Mr. Sisterson, Pests Officer. It is with regret that I have to report that Mr. Lyall left his post in October for a similar position with Boston Rural District Council.

I am,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,
Your obedient servant,

J.A. STAIG,

Public Health Inspector.

SECTION 1.

PUBLIC HEALTHSanitary CircumstancesTOTAL VISITS DURING YEAR RE:- TOTAL

Houses - Housing Defects (S.39, 45, 47, 56, 58, 92, 138)	54
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Houses - Other nuisances (S.39, 50, 75, 83A, 83B, 92B, 92C, 92D)	27
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PUBLIC HEALTH ACT

Sec. 39 Drainage, Cesspools, etc.	173
" 46 W.C's. - Workshops etc.	3
" 47 W.C's. - Conversions	27
" 50 Cesspools - nuisances	11
" 73 Trade Refuse	3
" 75 Dustbins	15
" 83A Filthy Premises	14
" 87 Public Conveniences	74

STATUTORY NUISANCES

Sec. 92 (a) Animals	3
" 92 (b) Accumulations etc.	5
" 138 Water Supply	2

PART V

Infectious Diseases	35
Sec. 259 Watercourses, ditches, etc.	14
" 268 Tents, Vans, Sheds.	9

FOOD & DRUGS

Butchers	21
Fried Fish Shops	2
Ice Cream	5
Meat Preparation Rooms	23
Public Houses, Inns, Hotels, etc.	17
Restaurants, Cafes.	14
Kippering Sheds	2
Slaughterhouses	19

MEAT & FOOD INSPECTION

Shops etc.	11
Slaughterhouses	625

MISCELLANEOUS 10LITTER BINS 8PETROLEUM 19DISINFESTATION 6LICENSING ACT 3CARAVAN SITES 44INTERVIEWS 191

FACTORIES

Mechanical	27
Non Mechanical	5
Workplaces	2

PEST CONTROL

Local Authority Premises	9
Dwelling Houses	3
Business Premises	7

CLEANSING SERVICE

Collection	35
Disposal (Tips etc.)	192

HOUSING ACT 1936/57

Repairs (Sec. 9)	-
Demolitions (Sec. 16)	5
Closing (Sec. 18)	-
Clearance Area (Sec. 42)	9

S E C T I O N 2.FOOD & DRUGSLicences or Registrations

Slaughterhouses	6
Slaughtermen	21
Ice Cream Premises	48
Ice Cream Manufacturers	Nil

Food InspectionTINS

Section 9. Canned Foods	853
Meat	104
Milk	85

S E C T I O N 3.HOUSINGGeneral

Total No. of Houses in District	4,298
New Houses (1967) - Local Authority	18
" " " - Other Housing Authorities	-
" " " - Private Persons	14
Total Number of Council Houses to date	859

HOUSING ACT 1936/57Survey of Houses for period ending December, 1967.

	Action During 1967			Total Remaining	
	Demolished	Vacated	Confirmed	Occupied	Vacated
Demolition Orders	-	1	-	1	12
Closing Orders	-	1	-	-	1
Undertakings	-	-	-	3	26
Clearance Orders	-	6	-	4	43
Informal	-	-	-	-	-
Totals	-	8	-	8	82

Repairs to Houses - By Informal Action 34 Houses

Discretionary Grants 1967

- (1) Applications submitted to Local Authority (1967) 16
- (2) Applications rejected 3
- (3) Applications approved 13
- (4) Total number approved since inception of scheme 468
- (5) Hill Farming & Livestock Rearing Act (1946/54) - for year 1967.

Standard Grants 1967

	<u>1967</u>	<u>To Date</u>
No. of Houses Grant aided	38	271
" " " provided with Bath or Shower	31	206
" " " provided with Wash Hand Basin	33	230
" " " provided with Hot Water Supply	31	192
" " " provided with Water Closet	33	240
" " " provided with Food Store	26	170

S E C T I O N 4.The Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.(a) Registrations and General Inspections

Class of Premises	No. Registered During Year	Total No. Registered at End of Year	No. of Registered Premises receiving General Inspection
Offices	Nil	4	2
Shops	Nil	38	36
Wholesale shops	Nil	-	-
Catering establishments	Nil	14	14
Fuel storage depots	Nil	1	-

Number of visits of all kinds to registered premises - 54

Analysis of Persons in Registered Premises

Class of Workplace	Number of Persons Employed
Offices	26
Shops	105
Wholesale shops	-
Catering establishments	94
Fuel storage depots	-
Total	225
Males	74
Females	151

SECTION 5.

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

REPORT FOR 12 MONTHS ENDED 31ST DECEMBER, 1967.

MEAT

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs	Horses
Number killed (if known)	666	-	2	2,140	361	-
Number inspected	666	-	2	2,140	361	-
All diseases except <u>Tuberculosis & Cysticerci</u>	1	-	2	6	3	-
<u>Whole carcases condemned</u>						
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	215	-	-	69	41	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Cysticerci and Tuberculosis	30%	-	100%	3.5%	12%	-
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>						
<u>Whole carcases condemned</u>	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	-	-	-	-	-	-
Cysticercosis - Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	Nil	-	-	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	-	-	-	-	-	-
Generalised and Totally Condemned	-	-	-	-	-	-

Meat Condemned During 1967

Disease or Condition	Whole Carcases					Parts or Organs					Weight in lbs.
	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves	Cattle	Sheep	Pigs	Calves			
Abscesses					1						15
Actinomycosis					4						110
Bruising						3					305
Cirrhosis											512
Fascioliasis											1,378
Gangrenous Mastitis											-
Immaturity											93
Jaundice											217
Parasites											47
Pleurisy											18
Pneumonia											61
Pneumonia - Acute Septic Septic Wounds											279
											17
Total	1	6	3	2	215	69	41	-			3,052

	Cattle Excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
No. Killed 1965	698	-	3	2,356	106
" " 1966	644	-	5	2,280	371
" " 1967	666	-	2	2,140	361
No. Inspected 1965	698	-	3	2,356	106
" " 1966	644	-	5	2,280	371
" " 1967	666	-	2	2,140	361
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis or Cysticerci	1965 1966 1967	27.0 29.0 30.0	- - -	66.6 40.0 100.0	2.5 2.0 3.5
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	1965 1966 1967	- - -	- - -	- - -	0.26 - -
Cysticercosis Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	1965 1966 1967	2 4 -	- - -	- - -	- - -

SECTION 7WATER SAMPLINGClassification of SuppliesPublic
Supplies

Class 1 Excellent	55
Class 2 Satisfactory	3
Class 3 Suspicious	-
Class 4 Unsatisfactory	4
Total No. of Samples	62
Total No. of Supplies	2

SECTION 8CARAVAN SITES ACT

Sites for Single Caravans	6
Sites for 2 - 5 Caravans	7
Sites for 6 - 14 Caravans	7
Sites for 15 and over Caravans	7
Total Licensed Sites	27

S E C T I O N 9CLEANSING SERVICE

Staff	9
Vehicles (Rear Loading - Dual Tip: 12 cu. yds.)	2
" (Side Loading: 10 cu. yds.)	2
" (Side Loading: 7 cu. yds.) <u>spare</u>	1
" 45 BHP. Diesel Engine Tractor	1
Districts	4
Refuse Tips	7

S E C T I O N 10MISCELLANEOUS

No. of Public Conveniences	6
No. of Part-time Caretakers	6
Licensed Petroleum Installations	97



